

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 USIE-00
INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /083 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/IR:LFISCHER:SHC
APPROVED BY ACDA/IR:WSTEARMAN
NSC:GTREVERTON
CS:SMCARDLE
OSD:JMORRISON
M:LBRECKON
EUR:JHAWES
CDA:MHUMPHREYS
INR:RBARAZ
S/S : SGOLDSMITH

-----260259Z 117317 /63

O R 260149Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 093346

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT:MBFR: DATA DISAGGREGATION

REFS: A. NATO 2308 (DTG 211230Z APR 77), B. NATO 2334
(DTG 221200Z APR 77), C. STATE 91856 (DTG 230000Z APR 77)
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1. WE CAN ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN PARA 8, REF B.
WE WOULD EXPECT TO GIVE OUR TALKING POINTS PAPER TO THE FRG
AT THE PLANNED BILATERAL EXPERTS DISCUSSION (REF C).

2. FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE FOR SPC MEETING APRIL 6.

3. AS YOU ASSUMED (PARA 13, REF A), OUR POSITION ON
TABLING RED DATA IS UNCHANGED.

4. REGARDING DISAGGREGATION BY UNIT, THE FOLLOWING
APPLIES:

A. WE DO NOT REJECT THE IDEA OF USING DATA ON UNITS IN A
LATER STEP IN THE DATA DISCUSSION. HOWEVER, A WESTERN
EFFORT TO SKIP DIRECTLY TO INDIVIDUAL UNITS AND LOCATIONS,
WITHOUT FIRST EXCHANGING NATIONAL FIGURES, WOULD ALMOST
CERTAINLY ELICIT AN EASTERN REFUSAL.

B. THIS DEVELOPMENT WOULD GIVE THE EAST AN EASY OUT FOR
STOPPING THE FLOW OF ITS INFORMATION, ONE WHICH WOULD
NOT DISCREDIT TABLED EASTERN DATA, AS WOULD BE THE CASE
IF THE EAST REFUSED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS WHICH WERE
RELEVANT.

C. THIS APPROACH WOULD ALSO INVOLVE FORCE DEFINITION
AND COMPARABILITY PROBLEMS.

D. UNIT DISAGGREGATION IN THE ABSENCE OF NATIONAL FIGURES
COMMITTS THE WEST TO A HORIZONTAL ACROSS-THE-BOARD
EXAMINATION OF ALL WARSAW PACT UNITS OF A CERTAIN TYPE.
IT WOULD MAKE IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR THE WEST TO
CONCENTRATE ITS INQUIRY ON THOSE NATIONAL FORCES
WHERE THE BULK OF DISCREPANCY MAY LIE. A FULL PICTURE OF
INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL FORCES WOULD ONLY EMERGE AT THE VERY
END OF THE PROCESS, IF AT ALL.

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5. REGARDING THE DUTCH PROPOSAL, THE FOLLOWING APPLIES:

A. IT WOULD BE HIGHLY ARTIFICIAL FOR NATO IN THE SPRING
OF 1977 TO PUBLISH MANPOWER TOTALS FOR THE FIRST TIME
ON NATO FORCES IN THE NGA AS OF A DATE 15 MONTHS EARLIER.

B. IF THE ACTION WOULD NOT BE RECIPROCAL, WE WOULD VIOLATE
OUR PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCAL EXCHANGES OF DATA. WE WOULD
NOT BE GETTING EASTERN DATA IN RETURN. BUT WE COULD NOT
REQUIRE RECIPROCITY SINCE, AS THE MISSION NOTED(PARA 12C,
REF A), THE EAST HAS NO PARALLEL WARSAW PACT PUBLICATION
CHANNEL.

C. THIS WOULD BE AN ARTIFICIAL METHOD NOT EQUIVALENT TO
TABLING FIGURES AND WOULD NOT BE RECOGNIZED AS SUCH BY THE
EAST.

D. THE EAST WILL OBJECT THAT THIS ACTION DOES NOT RE-

PRESENT TABLING OF FIGURES IN THE TALKS AND THAT THEY ARE NOT DEALING WITH NATO AS AN ORGANIZATION.

E. HENCE, THE EAST WOULD NOT TABLE ITS NATIONAL FIGURES AND THE WEST WOULD BE BLOCKED IN THE DATA DISCUSSION.

F. MOREOVER, IF THIS METHOD IS TRIED AND FAILS, THE FOCUS OF EAST-WEST DISAGREEMENT WOULD BE ON THE TOPIC OF TABLING NATIONAL DATA AND OUR OWN WESTERN ACTIONS WOULD HAVE EMPHASIZED WHAT WE MUST AVOID, THAT THE DATA DISCUSSION BECOMES DIRECTLY LINKED WITH REDUCTION APPROACHES.

G. NOT ONLY IS THE APPROACH SUBJECT TO THESE DEFECTS, BUT IT IS IN NO WAY SUPERIOR TO TABLING NATIONAL DATA IN PROTECTING THE WESTERN POSITION ON COLLECTIVITY. IN BOTH CASES, THE WEST WOULD HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO VALIDATE
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AND DISCUSS NATIONAL FIGURES AND IN BOTH CASES THE WEST WOULD RELY PRINCIPALLY ON ITS ANNOUNCED REFUSAL EITHER TO CONSIDER NATIONAL LIMITS ON EUROPEAN FORCES OR TO RELATE THE DATA DISCUSSION TO OUR SUBSTANTIVE POSITION.

6. REGARDING UNILATERAL TABLING OF US FIGURES, THE FOLLOWING APPLIES:

UNILATERAL TABLING OF US SUB-TOTALS WOULD BE VERY UNLIKELY TO ELICIT ANY CORRESPONDING EASTERN RESPONSE, SINCE THEY HAVE REJECTED AN EXCHANGE OF US AND SOVIET TOTALS. MOREOVER, THE US IS UNWILLING TO TABLE FURTHER DATA ON ITS FORCES WITHOUT A RECIPROCAL AND EQUIVALENT MOVE BY THE EAST.
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